

**IN THE DRAWINGS**

Please replace Figures 1 - 3 with the attached Amended Figures 1-3.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

In claim 5, line 1, delete "or 4";

In claim 6, line 1, delete "or 4";

Please amend claim 11 to read as follows:

11. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 7 wherein said reducing agent is selected from the group consisting of activated carbon, graphite powders, charcoal powders, ash powders, oil, paraffin, tar, pitch, and mixtures thereof.

Please add the following new claims:

12. The method as claimed in claim 4 wherein said starting material solution further contains metal ions selected from the group consisting of titanium ions, tungsten ions, nickel ions, copper ions, iron ions, aluminum ions, silicon ions, beryllium ions, magnesium ions, calcium ions, strontium ions, barium ions, ions of a rare earth metal other than cerium, and mixtures thereof.--

--13. The method as claimed in claim 4 wherein said step of precipitating a composite salt from a starting material solution is carried out by neutralizing the starting material solution with alkali.--

--14. The method as claimed in claim 8 wherein said reducing agent is selected from the group consisting of activated carbon, graphite powders, charcoal powders, ash powders, oil, paraffin, tar, pitch, and mixtures thereof.--